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Remarks

Claims 1-75 are currently pending in the subject application and claims 1-48 are presently under consideration. Applicants' representative acknowledges the courtesies extended by the Examiner and the Examiner's Supervisor in a telephone conference on November 3, 2004.

Favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments herein.

I. Rejection of Claims 1-5, 7, 9-21, 23-25, and 31-48 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1-5, 7, 9-21, 23-25, and 31-48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Chin, *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,456,306).

Chin, *et al.* does not teach or disclose the present invention as recited in the subject claims. During the telephone conference of November 3, 2004, the primary reference, Chin, *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,456,306) was discussed. More specifically, the claim limitation "wherein if an action is performed on the representation of the collection of members, then the action is propagated to the collection of members" of independent claim 1 of the subject application was discussed. Applicants' representative respectfully submits that Chin does not teach, suggest or disclose this limitation of independent claim 1.

Rather, Chin *et al.* is directed to "[a] method and apparatus for concurrently displaying from a single window on a network management station the health status of all network devices and objects of a computer network." (Abstract). Chin *et al.* "uses colored network device icons (e.g., 601-603) and status panes (610-650) to report the current operational state of the devices in the network or within a selected network site." (Col. 6, lines 49-52, emphasis added). Applicants' representative respectfully submits that Chin *et al.* does not teach, disclose or suggest *performing an action on a representation of a collection of members which results in the action being propagated to the members of the collection* as recited in independent claim 1 of the subject application.

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While Chin *et al.* discloses viewing members of a collection (Figs. 3 and 6), it does not disclose *propagating an action to a collection of members if an action is performed on a representation of the collection of members* as in the claimed invention.

In view of at least the above, it is clear that Chin, *et al.* neither anticipates nor suggests the subject invention as recited in independent claim 1 (and claims 2-5, 7, 9-21, 23-25, and 31-48 which depend there from). Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

II. Rejection of Claims 6 and 8 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 6 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chin, *et al.* in view of Richardson (U.S. 6,271,845). Withdrawal of this rejection is requested for at least the following reasons.

The combination of Chin *et al.* and Richardson does not make obvious applicants' invention as recited in the subject claims - the references if combined as suggested in the Office Action would not result in the invention as claimed.

It is essential to consider all elements of the claimed invention; it is impermissible to compare the prior art with what the viewer interprets the "gist" of the invention to be *Vas-Cath Inc. v. Mahurkar*, 935 F.2d 1555, 19 USPQ2d 1111 (Fed. Cir. 1991); *Perkin-Elmer Corp. v. Computervision Corp.*, 732 F.2d 888, 221 USPQ 669 (Fed. Cir. 1984); *Jones v. Hardy*, 727 F.2d 1524, 1527-28, 220 USPQ 1021m 1024 (Fed. Cir. 1984).

The subject claims respectively depend from claim 1; and as noted *supra* Chin *et al.* does not teach or disclose the limitation of propagation of an action to a collection of members based on an action performed on the representation of the collection of members, as recited in independent claim 1. Richardson does not make up for the deficiencies of Chin *et al.* with respect to this claim.

In view of at least the foregoing, it is readily apparent that the combination of Chin, *et al.* and Richardson does not teach, suggest and/or make obvious the subject invention as recited in claims 6 and 8. This rejection should be withdrawn.

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III. Rejection of Claims 22 and 26 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 22 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chin, *et al.* in view of Manghirmalani, *et al.* ("Manghirmalani," U.S. 5,819,028). It is respectfully requested that Examiner withdraw the rejection for these claims for at least the following reasons.

As noted above, applicants' representative respectfully submits that Chin *et al.* does not teach or disclose the limitation of propagation of an action to a collection of members based on an action performed on the representation of the collection of members, as recited in independent claim 1 of the subject application. Manghirmalani *et al.* does not make up for this deficiency.

In view of at least the above, it is submitted that the combination of Chin, *et al.* and Manghirmalani *et al.* does not teach, suggest and/or make obvious the subject invention as recited in claims 22 and 26 (which depend from claim 1). Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

IV. Rejection of Claims 27-30 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 27-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chin, *et al.* in view of Bradley, *et al.* (U.S. 6,584,507). Applicants respectfully request that Examiner withdraw the rejection for these claims for at least the following reasons.

The combination of Chin *et al.* and Bradley *et al.* does not make obvious the subject invention as recited in claims 27 – 30. The references if combined as suggested by the Examiner would not result in the invention as claimed.

As noted *supra*, Chin *et al.* does not teach or disclose the limitation of *propagation of an action to a collection of members based on an action performed on the representation of the collection of members*, as recited in independent claim 1 of the subject application from which the subject claims depend. Bradley *et al.* does not make up for the aforementioned deficiencies of the primary reference with respect to claim 1.

Accordingly, the combination of Chin, *et al.* and Bradley *et al.* does not teach, suggest and/or make obvious the subject invention as recited in claims 27 – 30 (which depend from claim 1); and this rejection should be withdrawn.

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CONCLUSION

The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063 (Ref. No. MSFTP116US).

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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